



Forest Service

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests

30 S Chiricahua Drive

Springerville, AZ 85938

(928) 333-6280

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/asnf>

www.facebook.com/apachesitgreavesnfs

@A_SNFs



Media Contact: Marta Call

(928) 333-6280

<mailto:martaicall@fs.fed.us>

News Release

Black Mesa Ranger District implements winter closure order that includes Forest Road 300

Heber-Overgaard, AZ; December 17, 2015— Snow in the Rim Country has left many forest roads impassable. Black Mesa Ranger District (BMRD) is instituting a winter closure of the Rim Lakes Recreation Area as of **4 p.m. MST on December 17, 2015**. This closure includes vehicle access to Woods Canyon, Willow Springs, and Bear Canyon Lakes. This winter closure order applies to wheeled motor vehicles only. The forest will remain open for winter recreational activities, including, but not limited to the use of snow machines. These closures are placed for public safety, protect forest resources and safeguard forest snowmobile routes. The snow route originates at the Rim Top Trailhead, located at the junction of State Highway 260 and Forest Road 300 (Rim Road) and extends northwest into the Rim Lakes Recreation Area. Access to the snow route by car and truck traffic will be restricted at FR 300, 169, 34, 63, and 70A. The closure order and map will be posted on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests website at www.fs.usda.gov/asnf.

This closure order will limit access to Christmas tree cutting area 1A on the Black Mesa Ranger District to snowmobiles only. Christmas Tree Cutting area 1B, off Forest Road 504 will remain open. Four wheel drive vehicles are recommended. Christmas tree permits are available at the Black Mesa Ranger District Monday- Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 19th from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

For general forest travel on open roads, it is important to remember that forest roads are not maintained or regularly patrolled during the winter months. Traveling on forest roads is not advised during the winter and is at your own risk. When exploring the forest in winter don't overestimate the ability of your vehicle. If a road looks impassable, it likely is. If you find that you are leaving ruts in the road, please reevaluate your need to enter the forest. Visitors found to be causing ruts or other damage on or off forest roads are subject to fines for resource damage and are responsible for any costs incurred if they need a tow truck to pull their vehicle back onto solid ground. No extraordinary measures will be taken to help remove personal vehicles and equipment that becomes stuck on snowy forest roads. If you must venture into the forest, four wheel drive vehicles are recommended, and



always carry extra clothing, blankets, food, water, and a cell phone. Remember to tell friends and family which roads you plan to travel and when you expect to be home. Plan ahead and be safe.